

Claims:

1. An ergonomic device (100) for manual input of control signals in a computer-controlled environment,

5 the device (100) comprising:

a base (10) geometrically arranged to rest at least partially on a support surface (300);

10 a manipulation member (21) mounted on the base for manual manipulation by a user, the manipulation member being movable relative to the base (10) for generating corresponding input control signals within the computer environment;

a display (30) provided on the base (10), and

15 a palm rest (40) provided on the base for supporting the palm of the user's hand during use of the device (100), wherein the manipulation member (21) is arranged between the display (30) and the palm rest (40).

2. The device according to claim 1,

20 wherein the display (30) is inclined in an acute angle to the support surface (300).

3. The device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the palm rest (40) is exchangeable.

4. The device according to any of the preceding claims,

25 wherein the upper surface of the base (10) is higher in the region of the display (30) than in the region of base of the manipulation member (21).

5. The device according to any of the preceding claims,

wherein the center axis of the manipulation member (21) is inclined relative to the vertical on the support surface.

5 6. The device according to any one of preceding claims, wherein the device (100) is configured such that, when the palm of the user's hand is located on the palm rest (40), the manipulation member (21) is located in general alignment with and within reach of the middle three fingers of the hand, and a first group of buttons (22, 23, 24) is arranged in one of the following positions:
(i) in the vicinity of the user's thumb, or
(ii) in the vicinity of the user's smallest finger.

10 7. The device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the device (100) includes at least two groups of user input buttons (22, 24), one of said groups (24) comprising buttons whose function is able to be programmed, and the other group (22) comprising buttons having a pre-set or predetermined operation, one of said groups (22) being arranged in the vicinity of the user's thumb and the other said group (24) being arranged in the vicinity of the user's smallest finger.

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20 8. The device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein at least the underside (204) of one end of the base (10), preferably the underside of the region of the display (30), is elevated from the support (figure 4).

25 9. An ergonomic device (100) for manual input of control signals in a computer-controlled environment, the device (100) comprising:

a base (10) geometrically arranged to rest on a support surface (300);

a manipulation member (21) mounted on the base for manual manipulation by a user, the manipulation member being movable relative to the base (10) for generating corresponding input control signals within the computer environment;

a display (30) provided on the base (10),

wherein the display (30) is inclined in an acute angle to the support surface (300).

10. An ergonomic device for manual input of control signals in a computer-controlled environment,

5 the device (100) comprising:

a base (10) geometrically arranged to rest on a support surface (300);

a manipulation member (21) mounted on the base for manual manipulation by a user, the manipulation member being movable relative to the base (10) for generating corresponding input control signals within the computer environment;

10 a display (30) provided on the base (10), wherein the upper surface of the base (10) is higher in the region of the display (30) than in the region of base of the manipulation member (21).